

**From:** Hubbard, Joseph  
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**1 – Houston among the smoggiest cities in the US, Houston Chron, 4/30/2015**

<http://www.chron.com/news/science-environment/article/Houston-among-the-smoggiest-cities-in-the-U-S-6234292.php>

Houston is the first non-California city on the American Lung Association's list of smoggiest cities. Dallas also makes the top 10. The "State of the Air 2015" report ranks cities based on two types of pollutant: ozone pollution and particulate pollution. Here's how Time magazine explains the difference in the two irritants: "Particle pollution refers to the toxic exhaust emitted by processes like smoking or driving a car, and ozone pollution refers to an invisible substance present in smog. Exposure to either pollutant can exacerbate breathing problems and increase residents' chance of developing cancer."

**2 – An inclusive climate movement starts to rise in the Southeast, Grist, 4/30/2015**

<http://grist.org/article/an-inclusive-climate-movement-starts-to-rise-in-the-southeast/>

It's no secret that the climate movement, despite some recent successes, has its problems. Spoken by mostly white voices, our messages are sometimes out of touch with the priorities of frontline communities: the ethnic minorities and low-income people who unfairly absorb the health and economic costs of climate change and environmental pollution. We are becoming more diverse, but we're not there yet. And we focus most of our attention on the corporations and politicians that we perceive to have all the power, rather than building power from the ground up, in the communities that are right now dealing with the consequences of climate change and fossil fuel extraction.

**3 – Texas won't pass up another opportunity to fight the EPA, Star-Telgram, 4/30/2015**

<http://www.star-telegram.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/mike-norman/article19971354.html>

If the Environmental Protection Agency finalizes its proposed Clean Power Plan this summer to reduce carbon emissions from existing power plants, expect Texas to kick and scream. Filing lawsuits against the Obama administration, especially the EPA, was one of Gov. Greg Abbott's main bragging points from his five years as state attorney general before he was elected governor last year.

**4 (Opinion) Cleaning the air, Houston Chron, 4/30/2015**

<http://www.chron.com/opinion/letters/article/Friday-letters-Cleaning-the-air-6234487.php>

Regarding the editorial "Ozone standard" (Page B8, April 17), Texas has realized improvements in its air quality over the last several years; however, as indicated in the editorial, significant work still needs to be done. The EPA is rightly setting lower emission standards to continue to improve the region's air quality. But the editorial and the EPA regulations largely focus on emission control technology and ignore other viable options, such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.

**5 — Today PNM Will File Two Key Agreements with New Mexico Regulators to Secure Longevity of San Juan Generating Station, 5/1/2015**

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/today-pnm-will-file-two-key-agreements-with-new-mexico-regulators-to-secure-longevity-of-san-juan-generating-station-2015-05-01/print>

New Mexico electric utility, Public Service Co. of New Mexico (PNM), today will file with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) substantially final coal supply and participant restructuring agreements for San Juan Generating Station (SJGS). The agreements will be filed as part of PNM's ongoing regulatory proceedings seeking NMPRC approval of the SJGS Plan settlement agreement filed in October 2014. Approval of the settlement agreement is an important step in implementing a revised state plan that benefits customers and complies with federal visibility regulations under the Clean Air Act.

**6 – Oklahoma Governor Rules Out State Plan For EPA Carbon Pollution Rules, Times Record, 4/30/2015**

<http://swtimes.com/legislature/oklahoma-governor-rules-out-state-plan-epa-carbon-pollution-rules>

Oklahoma will not formulate a state plan for upcoming federal rules regulating carbon dioxide from power plants under an executive order issued by Gov. Mary Fallin. The order, issued Tuesday, sets up a legal battle with the Environmental Protection Agency, which expects to issue final rules for its Clean Power Plan this summer. EPA wants existing power plants to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.

**7 – OKFB members take farm bill, EPA, security concerns to Washington D.C., 4/30/2015**

[http://www.hpi.com/general/okfb-members-take-farm-bill-epa-security-concerns-to-washington/article\\_9ad4f55d-7d5e-5e04-9c3b-33185e9c5286.html](http://www.hpi.com/general/okfb-members-take-farm-bill-epa-security-concerns-to-washington/article_9ad4f55d-7d5e-5e04-9c3b-33185e9c5286.html)

Farm bill implementation, EPA overregulation and national security were among the top concerns for the 53 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members and staff who attended the annual OKFB Congressional Action Tour in Washington D.C. April 11 through 16. The group gathered in our nation's capital to discuss policy with their United States elected officials. The group made time to meet with United States Representatives Markwayne Mullin, Frank Lucas, Steve Russell, Tom Cole, Jim Bridenstine and U.S. Sens. Jim Inhofe and James Lankford.

**8 – Earthquake Concerns May Lead to Shutdown of O&G Disposal Wells, Texas Lawyer, 4/29/2015**

<http://www.texaslawyer.com/home/id=1202725076738/Earthquake-Concerns-May-Lead-to-Shutdown-of-OampG-Disposal-Wells?mcode=1202616608548&curindex=2&slreturn=20150401093757>

Southern Methodist University's recent investigation into the possible connection between wastewater injection wells and earthquakes is almost certainly shaking up some operators in the Texas oil and gas industry. The Railroad Commission of Texas has directed the commission's hearings division to initiate proceedings requiring the operators of two oil and gas disposal wells in the area of Azle, Texas, to show cause why the injection permits for the wells should not be canceled and wells shut down because of an alleged connection to seismic activity.

**9 Residents speak out about pipeline at commissioner's meeting, Big Bend Now, 4/30/2015**

<http://bigbendnow.com/2015/04/residents-speak-out-about-pipeline-at-commissioners-meeting/>

Representatives from Energy Transfer Partners came head-to-head with area residents and commissioners alike at Tuesday's Brewster County commissioner's court meeting. The commissioners' court launched into the agenda with business as usual before opening up the floor to public comment. A number of concerned citizens took the opportunity to discuss their apprehensions with regard to the Trans Pecos Pipeline, which in recent weeks has become an alarming reality for some, as the company has remained steadfast in its efforts to build the natural gas pipeline that is slated to run from Waha to Presidio, in spite of a strong regional opposition.

**10 — Major hurricane 'drought' for U.S.? Yes, researchers say, Times Picayune, 4/29/2015**

[http://www.nola.com/weather/index.ssf/2015/04/major\\_hurricane\\_drought\\_for\\_us.html#incart\\_most\\_share\\_d-environment](http://www.nola.com/weather/index.ssf/2015/04/major_hurricane_drought_for_us.html#incart_most_share_d-environment)

The United States is experiencing an unprecedented drought in the number of major hurricanes, Category 3 and above, with none having crossed the nation's shoreline since Category 5 Hurricane Wilma hit south Florida in October 2005, according to a new study published Wednesday (April 29) in Geophysical Research Letters.

#### **11 — City Officials Reconsider Drilling Ordinances as Anti-Frack Ban Legislation Moves Forward, NPR 4/30/2015**

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2015/04/30/city-officials-reconsider-oil-and-gas-ordinances-as-anti-frack-ban-legislation-moves-forward/>

The Oklahoma House and Senate have advanced legislation to prevent cities, towns and counties from banning fracking and other oil and gas activities. At least one of the bills will likely end up on the governor's desk, but even in its unsigned, non-finalized form, the legislation is affecting local regulation.

#### **12 Houston-area residents remain optimistic about local economy, Houston Chron 4/30/2015**

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Houston-area-residents-remain-optimistic-about-6234767.php>

Houstonians remain surprisingly upbeat about the local economy despite the latest downturn in the oil industry, an outlook that reflects how broadly the nation's energy capital has diversified since the great bust of the 1980s, a new poll found. Even with job cuts and belt-tightening across the energy sector, nearly seven in 10 people say the region provides good or excellent opportunities for work - the highest mark since 1982, according to the poll by Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research.

#### **13 Feds reach settlement with New Mexico over radiation leak, AP, 4/30/2015**

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/4d4c9a57d8e44de4a646afcf3211943b/new-mexico-feds-reach-73m-settlement-over-nuke-mishap>

The Energy Department will funnel more than \$73 million toward road and water projects around New Mexico as part of a settlement over a radiation leak that forced the indefinite closure of a troubled nuclear waste dump. The agreement, announced by Republican Gov. Susana Martinez and state Environment Secretary Ryan Flynn, follows months of tense and slow negotiations. The settlement is the largest ever reached between a state and the department, Flynn said, noting that the agency needed to be held accountable for putting people at risk.

#### **14 House Advances Bill to Speed Permits, Limit Protests, Texas Tribune, 4/30/15**

<http://www.texastribune.org/2015/04/30/house-advances-bill-speed-permits-limit-protests/>

Texas is poised to widen its welcome mat to a wide range of industries. Claiming that the state's bureaucracy is shooing away businesses, House lawmakers on Thursday night gave initial approval to a bill aiming to quicken regulators' pace of cranking out permits for major industrial projects – by limiting public scrutiny.